

From: Esther Williams
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/25/02 8:33pm
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

I would like to see this final judgment accepted and let Microsoft and everyone else move on to new innovations.

I worked in programming for scientific research and also network mangement and information systems for 35 years at the University of Illinois. In the early years of desktop computers it was so complicated to have parts of systems from many different software and/or hardware companies and they didn't always work together and it was a headache. My work got so much easier around the time that Windows (especially Windows 95) came out as there seemed to be cooperation in producing compatible software. At least things worked together without a lot of trouble. And each version of Windows got better.

Please don't send us back to the time when everything was such a mess. Let us accept this agreement and go on. Stop wasting time and money on this battle.

Being at the University of Illinois all of those years, I was aware that both Netscape and Internet Explorer came out of the University of Illinois. I knew that Microsoft wasn't allowed to sell Internet Explorer because of the agreement with the Trustees of the University of Illinois through Spyglass. I knew that the developer of Netscape was allowed to go out and start a company. Microsoft was not allowed to sell Internet Explorer in competition to Netscape--they had to give it out free.

I also understand why Microsoft built their operating system with a browser as so integral a part. The idea is to make access to other servers on the network or on the internet transparent. In the long run, it was to make it easier for users. As a programmer, I can understand how hard it would be to integrate every single browser--that is part of what would make that mess I was mentioning above.

Obviously, I am not an attorney, but as a user of software both at home and at work, I am satisfied with the final judgment and competitive impact statement.

Thank you for your attention.

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